

Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

Population coverage. The figures shown are for the civilian noninstitutional population.

Symbols. A dash “—” represents zero or rounds to zero, and the symbol “B” means that the base for the derived figures is less than 75,000. Three dots “...” mean not applicable, and “NA” means not available.

School enrollment. The school enrollment statistics from the current surveys are based on replies to the enumerator’s inquiry as to whether the person was enrolled in school. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Children enrolled in nursery schools and kindergarten are included in the enrollment figures for “regular” schools, and are also shown separately.

“Special” schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending “special” schools are not included in the enrollment figures.

Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a “regular” school.

College enrollment. The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the enumerator’s inquiry as to whether the person was attending or enrolled in college. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year, except those who have left for the remainder of the term. Thus, regular college enrollment includes those persons attending a 4-year or 2-year college, university, or professional school (such as medical or law school), in courses that may advance the student toward a recognized college or university degree (e.g. BA or MA). Attendance may be either full time or part time, during the day or night.

Age. The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

Race. The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race: White, Black, and “other races.” The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black.

Spanish origin. Information on origin or descent was obtained by asking “What is (this person’s) origin or descent?” Responses generally refer to a person’s perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents. The category Spanish origin includes persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Central or South American, and other Spanish origin.

Marital status. The marital status category shown in this report, “married, spouse present,” includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

Family. The term “family,” as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

Primary family. A primary family is a family that includes among its members the person or couple who maintains the household.

Head of family. One person in each family residing together was designated as the head. The head of a family is usually the person regarded as the head by members of the family. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are resident members of the family at the time of the survey.

Primary family members. All members of the family that includes the person or couple who maintains the household are considered primary family members.

Dependent family members. For the purpose of this report, a dependent family member is a relative of the person or couple maintaining that household. Such persons are generally sons and daughters living in the home of their parent.. Family members who are living away from home while attending college are also counted as dependent family members.

Years of school completed. Data on years of school completed in this report were derived from the combination of answers to two questions: (a) “What is the highest grade of school he has ever attended?” and (b) “Did he finish this grade?”

The questions on educational attainment apply only to progress in “regular” schools. Such schools include graded public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools

(both junior and senior high), colleges, universities, and professional schools, whether day schools or night schools. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance person toward an elementary school certificate, high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Schooling in other than regular schools was counted only if the credits obtained were regarded as transferable to a school in the regular school system.

Family income. Income as defined in this report represents the combined total money income of the family before deductions for personal taxes, Social Security, bonds, etc. It is the algebraic sum of money wages and salaries, net income from self-employment, and income other than earnings received by all family members during the 12 months prior to the surveys. It should be noted that although the family income statistics refer to receipts during the previous 12 months, the characteristics of the person, such as age, marital status, etc., and the composition of families refer to the date of the survey.

The income tables include in the lowest income group those who were classified as having no income in the previous 12 months and those reporting a loss in net income from farm and nonfarm self-employment or in rental income.

The detailed income tables in this report include a separate category for families for which no income information was obtained. In most of the other Current Population Survey Reports showing income data, the missing income data have been allocated.

The money income level of families shown in this report may be somewhat understated. Income data from the October control card are based on the respondent's estimate of total family money income for the preceding 12 months coded in broad, fixed income intervals. Income data collected in the March supplement to the Current Population Survey are based on responses to 11 direct questions asked of all persons 14 years old and over identifying 23 different sources of income and cover the preceding calendar year. (See table A-1.)

Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting while increasing the likelihood that the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

Labor force and employment status. The definitions of labor force and employment status in this report relate to the population 14 years old and over.

Employed. Employed persons comprise (1) all civilians who, during the specified week, did any work at all as paid employees or in the their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a farm or in a business operated by a member of the family, and (2) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-

management dispute, or because they were taking time off for personal reasons whether or not they were paid by their employers for time off, and whether or not they were seeking other jobs. Excluded from the employed group are persons whose only activity consisted of work around the house (such as own home housework, painting or repairing own home, etc.) or volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations.

Unemployed. Unemployed persons are those civilians who, during the survey week had no employment but were available for work and (1) had engaged in any specific jobseeking activity *within the past 4 weeks*, such as registering at a public or private employment office, meeting with prospective employers, checking with friends or relatives, placing or answering advertisements, writing letters of application, or being on a union or professional register; (2) were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off; or (3) were waiting to report to a new wage or salary job within 30 days.

Labor force. Persons are classified as in the labor force if they were employed as civilians, unemployed, or in the Armed Forces during the survey week. The "civilian labor force" is comprised of all civilians classified as employed or unemployed.

Not in the labor force. All civilians 14 years old and over who are not classified as employed or unemployed are defined as "not in the labor force." This group who are neither employed nor seeking work includes persons engaged only in own home housework, attending school, or unable to work because of long term physical or mental illness; persons who are retired or too old to work, seasonal workers for whom the survey week fell in an off season; and the voluntarily idle. Persons doing only unpaid family work less than 15 hours are also classified as not in the labor force.

Vocational school experience. This information was elicited by asking, "Is . . . taking any business, vocational, technical, or correspondence courses other than on-the-job training?" Those answering "Yes" were currently enrolled. Those answering "No" to this question were asked, "Has . . . attended any business, vocational, or technical schools during the past 12 months?" These questions identified persons currently taking or recently taking courses other than "regular" high school or college courses and includes all types of *postsecondary* training. Examples are persons studying to be apprentices in a construction field with formal classroom instructions, persons attending secretarial school, persons attending barber school, as well as persons enrolled in such classes which do not require their physical presence, such as correspondence courses.

Attendance status. Vocational school students who were enrolled in October 1976 were classified according to whether they were attending on a full-time, part-time, or corre-

spondence basis. If the respondent was unsure of his or her attendance status, the enumerator attempted to elicit whether the school classified the student into these categories. If not, the "other—not classifiable" category was recorded.

Attendance at business, vocational, or technical school during the past 12 months. This item was intended to determine if respondents answering "No" to the vocational school experience item (item 42) had been enrolled in vocational school at any time during the previous year.

Field of vocational training. The purpose of item 45 was to elicit the type of course the respondent was taking. Respondents provided a specific field of training and these fields were classified into major groups of vocational training categories. The write-in entry on field of study was coded into the following categories:

Agriculture

Sales

Insurance

Real estate

Other sales fields

Health

Nursing (RN)

Service aides

Technicians or therapists

Other health fields

Home Economics

Office

Secretarial

Bookkeeping or accounting

Office machine operator

Other office fields

Technical

Computer programmer, data processing, analyst

Electronics

Other computer fields

Engineering or mechanical technology

Other technical fields

Trades

Auto mechanic

Other mechanic

Appliance and machine repair

Art and printing

Construction trades

Cosmetology or barber training

Protection service

Metal trades

Other trade fields

Occupational training and occupational goal. Respondents were asked whether they were enrolled in vocational school to receive occupational training. If they were, they reported their occupational goals. For those not taking a course for occupational training such as for personal information or enjoyment, the "none, not occupational training" category was recorded.

Current occupation. The data on current occupation refer to the job held during the survey week. Persons employed at two or more jobs were reported in the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the week.

Current Population Survey items on vocational training analyzed in this report are presented below:

42. Is . . . taking any business, vocational, technical, or correspondence courses other than on the job training?
(Show CPS-658 Flashcard)

Yes ☐ (Ask 43)

No ☐ (Skip to 44)

43. Is . . . attending full-time or part-time? (Mark one circle only)

Part-time ☐

Full-time ☐

Other — not classifiable ☐

Correspondence course ☐ ☒

(Skip to 45)

44. Has . . . attended any business, vocational, or technical schools during the past 12 months?

Yes ☐ (Ask 45)

No ☐ (Skip to 47)

45. What type of training is . . . taking (did . . . take) at this school?

(Ask 46)

46. For what occupation is . . . taking (did . . . take) this training?

None, not occupational training ☐ ☒

(Fill 47)

Rounding of estimates. Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals, which are independently rounded. With few exceptions, percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.

**Table A-1. October CPS Control Card Family Income and March CPS Supplement Family Income:
1967 to 1976**

Year	Median family income, October control card	Percent change	Median family income, March supplement	Percent change	October- March ratio
1967.....	\$6,575	...	\$7,974	...	0.82
1968.....	7,060	7.4	8,632	8.3	0.82
1969.....	7,692	9.0	9,433	9.3	0.82
1970.....	8,093	5.2	9,867	1.6	0.82
1971.....	8,479	4.8	10,285	4.2	0.82
1972.....	9,115	7.5	11,116	8.1	0.82
1973.....	10,156	11.4	12,051	8.4	0.84
1974 ^r	10,650	4.9	12,836	6.5	0.83
1974 ^r	10,650	...	12,902	...	0.83
1975.....	11,031	3.6	13,719	6.3	0.80
1976.....	11,644	5.6	14,958	9.0	0.78

^rMarch 1974 figures revised.

... Not applicable.